

Sermon Listening Guide (December 14, 2025)

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-2:8

Sermon Title: “Two Interesting Men”

First Thoughts

“Upside-Down Christmas” describes the upside-down nature of the Kingdom of God.

The Christmas story describes two men who could not be more different.

The Christmas narrative in Matthew shows the reaction of many to the arrival of Christ.

Herod the Great

Herod “the Great” transformed Israel through his massive building projects. He was powerful and well-connected to Rome.

Despite his potential, he was enraged when he heard of the birth of Jesus.

What words describe you as you ponder the arrival of the baby Jesus?

Joseph the Obedient

Joseph was a quiet man, and relatively little is known about him.

We do know that he was a good man who was faithful to follow the religious rules.

He was gentle with Mary through her pregnancy and devoted to Jesus.

The differences between Joseph and Herod could not be greater.

His reaction to the arrival of Christ is to be admired and imitated.

Jesus the Savior

As is always the case, the main character in Matthew 1-2 is God.

While others came to see Jesus, the highlight of the story is Jesus coming to be with mankind.

Final Thoughts

All of us receive the news of Jesus in one frame of mind or another.

Being a cruel man does not work, and being a “good man” is not enough.

Have you surrendered to Christ and made him Lord of your life?